

# **TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **ACTION MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 5, 2004**

**SCAG Office  
818 West Seventh Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA**

**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. AUDIO-CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Transportation & Communications Committee of the Southern California Association of Governments held its meeting at SCAG in Los Angeles. The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, Councilmember Harry Baldwin, City of San Gabriel. There was a quorum.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **Voting Members Present**

Steven Adams  
Jim Aldinger  
Harry Baldwin  
Lou Bone  
Art Brown  
Yvonne Burke  
Lawrence Dale  
Gene Daniels  
Richard Dixon  
Judy Dunlap  
Bonnie Flickinger  
Frank Gurule  
Robert Hernandez  
Carol Herrera  
Robin Lowe  
Bonnie Lowenthal  
Judy Mikels  
Llewellyn Miller  
Greg Pettis  
Bea Proo  
Ron Roberts  
Mark Rutherford  
Charles Smith  
Greig Smith  
Dick Stanford  
Don Szerlip

#### **City/County Representing**

Riverside, WRCOG  
Manhattan Beach  
San Gabriel  
Tustin  
Buena Park  
County of Los Angeles  
Barstow  
Paramount  
Lake Forest  
Inglewood  
Moreno Valley, WRCOG  
Cudahy  
Anaheim  
Diamond Bar  
Hemet, RCTC  
Long Beach  
Ventura County  
Claremont  
Cathedral City, CVAG  
Pico Rivera  
Temecula, WRCOG  
Westlake Village  
County of Orange, OCTA  
Los Angeles  
Azusa  
South Bay Cities COG

Paul Talbot  
Sidney Tyler

Alhambra  
Pasadena

**Voting Members Absent**

Glen Becerra  
Paul Biane  
Tom Buckley  
George Cole  
Bill Davis  
Cathryn DeYoung  
John Fasana  
Lee Ann Garcia, **Chair**  
Gary George  
Isadore Hall  
Peter Herzog  
Tim Keenan  
Patsy Marshall  
Keith Millhouse  
Mark Nuaimi  
Pam O'Connor  
Gary Ovitt  
Will Pieper  
Tod W. Ridgeway  
Cameron Smyth  
David A. Spence  
Tom Sykes  
Tonia Reyes Uranga

**Representing**

Simi Valley  
County of San Bernardino  
Lake Elsinore  
Bell, Gateway Cities COG  
Simi Valley, VCTC  
Laguna Niguel  
Durate  
Grand Terrace  
Redlands, SANBAG  
Compton  
Lake Forrest  
Cypress  
Buena Park  
Moorpark  
Fontana, SANBAG CTC  
Santa Monica  
Ontario  
Desert Hot Spring, CVAG  
Newport Beach  
Santa Clarita, North LA County  
Arroyo Verdugo Cities  
Walnut  
Long Beach

**Voting Members, Not Elected Officials Present**

James McCarthy

**Representing**

Caltrans, Los Angeles

**Voting Members, Not Elected Officials Absent**

Board Member  
Rotating Board Member

**Representing**

California, DOT  
Air Resources Board

**Transportation Commissions – Vacant**

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**New Members**

Tom Buckley, Lake Elsinore  
Mark Rutherford, Westlake Village  
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach  
Don Szerlip, Redondo Beach

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Harry Baldwin called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

## **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Note Public Comments following Information Items 5.1 and 5.2

## **3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **3.1 Approval Items**

#### **4.1.1. June 3, 2004 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were corrected to reflect that Greg Pettis, Cathedral City, was not present at the June meeting.

### **3.2 Receive and File**

#### **3.2.1 Intergovernmental Review Clearinghouse Reports**

#### **3.2.2 SCAG Legislative Matrix**

#### **3.2.3 Regional Transportation Plan Checklist**

MOTION was made to approve the consent calendar items, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

## **4.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **4.1 Draft 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTP)**

Hasan Ikhata, SCAG staff, began the presentation by stating that Staff could not seek the Committee's approval of the TIP because it does not meet all the requirements. Therefore, Staff was seeking a different action. He then stated that if the TIP was not approved by October 4, 2004 there will be a conformity lapse. This will mean that the Region cannot move forward with \$850 million dollars worth of projects. A significant amount of money cannot be spent if there is a lapse. There are five requirements that have to be met to have a conforming TIP. 1) The Regional Transportation Improvement Program has to be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan that the Committee adopted. In this case we still cannot say that we meet this requirement. 2) A regional Emissions Analysis needs to be performed. This requirement has been met. 3) We need to be financially constrained, we need to show that we have the money to build the projects that we say we are going to build. As of today we do not meet this requirement. 4) We also have to show that we are

implementing transportation control measures, that we are implementing them on time and that we can guarantee that they will be on the ground when we said they are going to be. This is yet to be done. 5) We are required to do inter-agency consultation. Processes are in place like the RTAC, which meets this requirement. Consequently, three out of the five requirements have not been met.

Mr. Ikhata then went on to state that for staff to come before the committee and advise them to approve the TIP and submit it to the federal agencies, there needs to be answers backed by actions by the respective boards and commissions. They need to say that they will divert the funds to build the projects. If this does take place, at that time we can work with the federal agencies to overcome any future obstacles. In the short-term one needs to be satisfied that this project will be funded and implemented. Mainly, MTA needs to respond to three out of the seven projects in MTA. Whether they have the money, when are they going to get the money, and whether they are going to divert some money to build these projects. Staff cannot come before the committee today for approval of the TIP because we do not have these answers, which makes us out of conformity as of today. Staff is requesting a few more weeks to do interagency consultation with the county commissions involved. To see that the county commissions staff and boards take appropriate actions to make sure these TCMs are given priority and funded.

Mr. Ikhata went on to state that as of October 4<sup>th</sup>, two months from now, we will lapse if we don't have an approved TIP. We cannot submit something to the federal agencies unless it is backed by a board action saying that we are going to be receiving the money.

The main obstacles to adopting the RTIP is the \$559 million shortfall for TCM (Transportation Control Measure) projects, which include the San Fernando Bus Rapid Transit project, and HOV lanes on the I-5 between the SR-134 and SR-170 among others. SCAG is looking for the LACMTA to provide direction as to their funding priorities. Staff will work with MTA staff in the coming weeks to have this take place.

Other strategies that need to be worked on that are very significant for the region is the North-South split, the allocation. You are all familiar with the Bay Bridge and how much money our region lost as a result of that. This directly led to the fact that we don't have enough money to do a lot of projects. We need to head up efforts in Sacramento to make sure our region gets their share of funds.

Another strategy that needs to be focused on are the ballot initiatives. If you recall, in the 2004 RTP we stated that MTA was going to move forward with a half-cent sales tax, which would support the Crenshaw Corridor to be specific. We hope that this move forward would also support other projects out of the nine in the MTA.

If in the next few weeks we can not resolve the issues to our satisfaction we will be out of conformity come October 4<sup>th</sup>. What will we need to do if this happens? There are a few choices. One option is to submit an interim TIP that would list all the TCMs we are not able to fund (the nine that would take priority over others, plus the other projects that are safety or operational improvements). This interim TIP would then be the document for implementing projects in the region. Putting an interim TIP forth, however, will make the TIP and the RTP inconsistent; the Regional Transportation Plan will have to be amended. This process will take from six months to a year to implement.

Mr. Ikhrata then asked the committee to grant staff additional time to seek out consultation and then bring the RTIP back for discussion. He also requested that the SCAG President transmit a letter to Caltrans asking them in case we overcome the obstacles in front of us today, that they do a concurrent review with the federal agencies so we won't lose thirty days as that is what the law requires.

Motion was made to extend the item. Motion was MOVED, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED to extend the 2004 RTIP adoption by a month.

## **5.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **5.1 Proposed LAX Master Plan Alternatives**

Michael Armstrong, SCAG Staff, presented a summary of LAX Master Plan alternatives being proposed by Councilmembers Miscikowski and Parks.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Denny Schneider, representing the Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion, commented on the organization's opposition to Alternative D. He urged the Committee to support Alternative E-1 to keep the basic design of LAX intact, fix the broken aspects and make security/safety upgrades.

### **5.2 State and Federal Legislative Update**

Staff provided updates on state and federal legislative measures to facilitate innovative financing project delivery. MTA and OCTA expressed the need for additional time to review and consult on specific provisions of legislation.

Staff also provided updates on Tribal Gaming Compacts and Prop. 68 and 70 with respect to transportation funding as well as an update on reauthorization TEA-21 and Federal appropriations.

#### Public Comment

##### Information Item 5.2 (A), Innovative Financing and Project Delivery

Mr. Michael Turner, representing Metro Transit Authority, commented on MTA's opposition to SCAG's pursuing legislation at both the state and federal level to facilitate the use of innovative financing and project delivery for regional transportation projects.

Ms. Kecia Washington, representing the Orange County Transportation Authority, commented that OCTA's concerns are that the CTC's had just recently become involved in the review process in the past couple of month's as they had not been asked to participate previously. OCTA feels that the proposal does have merit, but feel that they need more time to review it. It would benefit from the full legislative process by not trying to rush it through a conference committee process at the last minute, to make sure what is being crafted is going to accomplish the goals we are seeking.

##### 5.3 Alternative Fuels

Brett Sears, SCAG Staff, provided an update on SCAG's policy on alternative fuels.

##### 5.4 Watch the Road

This item was not presented due to an insufficient amount of time

#### **6.0 MAGLEV TASK FORCE REPORT**

Councilmember Lowe reported that she is the new Chair of the force and Lou Bone will be the Vice-Chair.

#### **7.0 CHAIR REPORT**

No report at this time.

#### **8.0 STAFF REPORT**

No report at this time.

**9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Watch the Road and an update on RTIP

**10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on

**September 2, 2004, 10:30 a.m., at the SCAG Office.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Nam', is written over a horizontal line.

Annie Nam, Acting Manager  
Transportation Planning &  
Programming Division